

U.F.O.I.C. NEWSLETTER

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APPLIED EXO BIOLOGY

John M. Prytz

At present, ExoBiology is defined as "the search for extraterrestrial life," or more usually and humorously put, "that science still in search of its subject."

Once that search is initially over, the definition will no doubt achieve a more dignified status as being something along the lines of "the biology of known extraterrestrial organisms." And, as with the birth of almost all the other recognized sciences, a split will emerge between the pure and applied ExoBiologist.

Applied ExoBiology will take on an expanded meaning, that is one of the relationships not only between alien life forms and alien environment, but also alien life forms and terrestrial environments (the Andromeda Strain type of contact), and terrestrial life forms in alien environments. The present prime goal of ExoBiology does not have to be realized of course in order for experimental work to begin in the latter type of situation (terrestrial life/alien environment). Today, however, that goes under the term of "planetary engineering by terrestrial life forms." I prefer the term "applied ExoBiology" even though there is no direct use of alien life, just alien environments.

To date there has been only one serious suggestion regarding applied ExoBiology. Dr. Carl Sagan (presently of Cornell University) suggested making the closest planet to Earth habitable — that is, Venus.

Data radioed to Earth from the

near and actual Venus environment by Russian and U.S. space probes suggest that Venus is presently unsuitable as a vacation spot for earthlings. Why?

1) The atmosphere of Venus is more than 90% carbon dioxide (CO_2), with a trace of water vapor/crystals, and nitrogen. No oxygen has been detected.

2) The surface temperatures are around the values of 600-1000°F. from pole to pole, noon to midnight. (This is far higher than had been theoretically expected prior to the flight of Mariner II.) The now accepted reason is that the CO_2 produces a "greenhouse effect" allowing visible light in but trapping out going infra-red radiation thus raising the temperature. An example

You will be interested to know that John Prytz is coming to Sydney to live, early 1972.
— (Ed.)

common enough to us all is a closed automobile sitting in the sun. The outside air temperature might be 80°F. while the inside air temperature could approach 200°F.!!

3) The pressure of the Venus atmosphere at the surface is roughly 90-100 times that on Earth by our atmosphere. Composition, temperature and pressure all present a formidable barrier to man colonizing our sister planet (which in other ways is very Earth-like).

It is strongly suspected that there exists a region in the atmosphere of Venus which has a temperature and pressure range about that of Earth (roughly 35 miles up), where small amounts of water vapor exist. This sets up the following possibility.

If this region could be seeded with specific types of algae (genetically produced if need be), then the following could happen.

1) While in this region, the drifting algae would undergo photosynthesis ($6\text{CO}_2 + 6\text{H}_2\text{O} \xrightarrow{\text{Sunlight}} \text{C}_6\text{H}_{12}\text{O}_6 + 6\text{O}_2$). That is, the algae takes in the CO_2 and the water vapor and under the energy of sunlight converts the stuff to various organic materials and gives off molecular oxygen.

● Continued Page 3.

Office Bearers for this New Year will be designated in the next issue of the Magazine.

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NEW MEMBERS

Anyone wishing to join the Unidentified Flying Objects Investigation Centre (UFOIC) can do so by contacting the General Secretary, Mr. Moser, P.O. Box E170, St. James, Sydney, 2000, or by coming to the next meeting in the Adyar Hall on February 1st.

EDITORIAL

As we start out into another year of UFO Research and Investigation I would like to thank all those who sent in letters and articles for the Newsletters. Keep up the good work because without them there would be no Newsletter. Keep up your interest in UFO's, and encourage others to be interested and to read the many books about the subject so that they can get an intelligent outlook on the subject.

We began last year with a very enthusiastic Committee and great things were going to come forth, but I am disappointed that some of these great things have slid into oblivion. I suppose in all committees some of the members find better things to do with their time than to attend 'meetings'. But I would ask this new committee just elected to try to stick with the work to be done. In a few months' time when your enthusiasm is waning and you find that being on a committee means you have to do a little work, as well as feeling the glory of seeing your name against one of the positions, do try to realise that it is your work and your help which will go towards making up the team which keeps the UFOIC ticking along. I agree that it is much harder to attend committee meetings in the winter than in the summer, but let's try to do better this year.

From the outgoing committee we would like to wish all our members and friends a very prosperous and healthy New Year, and GOOD SIGHTINGS.

(— Editor : V. Exley.)

DATES TO REMEMBER

- **February 1st, 1972 (Tuesday).**
Adyar Hall, Sydney. 8 p.m.
Public Meeting. Programme.
UFO Slides. Talk.
- **March 4th (Saturday).**
Members' Meeting will be held in 120 Castlereagh St., Sydney, near Market St, at 3 p.m. Small payment for refreshments.
- **April 4th (Tuesday).**
Adyar Hall, Sydney. Public Meeting. Programme to be arranged.

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COMMITTEE MEMBERS PLEASE TAKE NOTE

Committee Meeting will be held on **Tuesday, 25th January** — note change of date, please. Meeting will be in the Vienna Coffee Shop, top floor in Imperial Arcade, Sydney, at 6 p.m. Please try to be on time, as there will be much work to be done, and Office Bearers will be designated.

WORLD SCENE . . .

"UFO sightings during the first three months of 1971 can be characterized by one word : lights. For reasons not apparent, there has been a steady flow of "strange light" reports since late last year, most of them coming from the United States and Canada." This statement taken from the *UFO Investigator*, official publication of the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena, April 1971. (*Understanding*, Vol. 16, No. 9.)

On Monday 6.9.71 a Hamilton newspaper printed an item about a mysterious hole which appeared overnight on an Otarahanga dairy farm owned by Mr. M. Shields. His share-milker, Mr. J. Singh, had discovered the hole in a muddy area inaccessible to tractors or drilling apparatus. Police called in to investigate could give no information. No footprints appeared within three feet of the hole and there were no tractor marks. The hole measured NINE inches in diameter, was FIFTEEN feet deep and had very smooth sides all the way down. No soil appeared around the hole, it had completely and cleanly been removed.

(With compliments to Scientific Approach to Cosmic Understanding, N.Z., No. 76.)

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In England it was reported that five policemen from a patrol car sighted a UFO over Aldridge, Staffs. They watched it moving about for two hours. One of the officers, P.C. Leslie Leek, obtained twelve photos of the object. But immediately Chief Constable of Staffs. had slapped a security ban on the pictures, and the report continues that due to pressure by newsmen this ban has now been lifted.

(Extract from report by Hon. Brinsley le Poer Trench for SATCU, N.Z., No. 76.)

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In 1969 John Crowhurst's yacht was found abandoned in the Atlantic. His diaries found on board recorded strange 'hallucinations', sightings of sea monsters and things in the sky. No trace of Crowhurst has ever been found. There are several reports about fishing trawlers from Sweden colliding with an 'unknown underwater' object.

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UFO's sighted in Springfield, Ill., U.S.A. — October 6th, 1971 . . .

At about 8.50 p.m. it was reported that a trooper and several citizens had sighted four small and two large UFO's in Christian County.

A clerk, a radio dispatcher and one trooper spotted a UFO directly west of District 9 Headquarters on I-55 south of the city. This one was reported to be red and white to the naked eye and yellow, red and blue-green by telescope.

An enquiry was made to Capitol Airport to see if any National Guard helicopters were on maneuvers. They were not.

(Extract from *Skylook*, Box 129, Stover, Mo. Number 48, 1971.)

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PROJECT UFO — SHADOW

JOHN WEST, private UFO Researcher, has by now begun his round Australia journey called UFO Shadow Project. He is travelling in a station sedan equipped with still and movie cameras, telescopes, compasses, and a magnetic field detector. To indicate the presence of a UFO the detector gives out a piercing wail when a magnetic field is present, while the compass needle spins erratically. He is of the opinion that many sightings seem to be made on high ground, so he hopes to travel through some mountainous regions. In the Kimberley region, he will investigate ancient Aboriginal caves where wall-drawing figures have a great similarity to helmeted spacemen.

He says: "You can't deny the existence of UFO's. Both the American and Russian cosmonauts have claimed to have seen UFO's in space and they are trained to observe with clinical precision."

He goes on to say: "I must have read upwards of 20 books in the last few years that have put forward different solutions of the UFO-Phenomena. Only one could be completely correct. But how can science be expected to unravel such a multitude of varying data? However, not all the data is incorrect. I have extracted what I consider to be the salient and pertinent clues from every possible source and tossed out all the extraneous matter. I find I now have an incomplete jigsaw. But the pieces are coming easier as time goes on. And last year while I was in North Queensland I stumbled across what I consider a most vital piece of information. I have not as yet put it to the test. I will in the near future. This is what Project UFO — Shadow is all about. The result could well be a 90% finished jigsaw."

We look forward to reports from him from time to time.

FEES

1972 Membership Fees can be paid by sending your cheque or postal order to:-

Hon. Secretary,
Mr. Moser,
Box E170,
St. James,
Sydney, 2000.

Or contact him at Public Meetings.

Full Membership: \$5.00. Senior Citizens and Students: \$2.00.

Firstly allow me to congratulate you on the excellent format of the Newsletter. Recently it is superb. Concerning No. 31, however, the letter from Barry Taylor prompted me to take a survey and it appears that very few people indeed comprehend the nature of light and so-called light powered spaceships. Finally most people assume that if light is ejected rearward from a vehicle the vehicle moves forward at the velocity of light. Unfortunately this is not so. Perhaps a good example would be that of a gun firing a shell. As the shell leaves the barrel, the gun moves backward, but the shell goes a long way, say 3 miles, whereas the gun only travels a few feet at most. This recoil is the fundamental fact behind our greatest rockets. But because the gun is much heavier than the bullet it cannot go as far. This is given by the equation $M_1 V_1 = M_2 V_2$, where M_1 and M_2 are the mass of gun and shell respectively and V_1 and V_2 are the velocities of the gun and shell respectively. Transferring it to an interstellar vehicle now, moving perhaps 1000 Kg, it's only a small one as interstellar vehicles go, we can now value its velocity after a one second burst of light. A number of assumptions are necessary first, however. Assume that the vehicle which amounts say 1012 or one billion photons a second, that it does so for one second; that it weighs 1000 Kg. at rest (10^3); so our equation can now have these substitutions made and becomes

$$10^3 \times V_1 = (4.3 \times 10^{-36} \times 10^{12}) \times 3 \times 10^8$$

where 4.3×10^{-36} is the mass of a photon and 3×10^8 is the velocity of light or $V_1 = 4.3 \times 10^{-24} \times 3 \times 10^8$.

$10^3 = 12.9 \times 10^{-10}$ M/S = 1.3×10^{-18} M/S, which for those unacquainted with scientific notation is about 4 feet every thousand years! However, using light continuously the situation improves. To travel a short distance of one million kilometres would take only 100,000 years, accelerating all the way, of course. Also, for UFO's in our own atmosphere, if they turn their light off, as many do, they would fall to the ground. They would also be incapable of attaining the violent accelerations, reputedly observed. So it would seem that for UFO's to travel by means known to use photon power at least is ruled out. Something heavier, neutrons perhaps, would do a much better job but would be very fatal to humans in the area. It is commendable that Mr. Taylor strived himself to write at all and his views on the cultural aspect of UFO's are quite interesting and along the same lines as my own. I will perhaps expand on these at another opportunity if you wish. His statement about changing the frequency of light and thereby changing its velocity were also incorrect, unfortunately, but the reasons for this are much too complex to enter into here and he will have to take my word for it. There are many good physics texts for the layman he could consult for further information on the subject. Light is not composed of molecules which are much heavier than the fundamental light particle or photon, and by its very nature it cannot be compressed, stored, etc. It must be propagated at its sources, to use scientific jargon. I would be willing to contribute several articles along this line if you would be interested.

"PANORAMA" CLOSES

It is with regret that we announce the closing down of the magazine Panorama, published in South Australia.

This very interesting record of UFO sightings and things relating to such has been carried through by the Editor and Publisher, Fred Stone.

He has done a marvellous job of work and the magazine will be missed by many.

Fred Stone was ill when the last volume (No. 10, final issue) was in production and we all join in wishing him a healthy and speedy recovery.

(- V. Exley, Editor)

APPLIED EXOBIOLOGY • Continued from Page 1.

2) When the algae drifts down out of its temperature and pressure range it of course dies, and falls to the surface, where due to the high temperatures the water in the algae is steamed off and is recycled into the atmosphere to be used again. The organic material (containing the carbon) piles up on the surface. There are no decomposers to break up the dead dried algae and return the stored carbon back to the atmosphere in the form of carbon dioxide. That is to say the opposite of photosynthesis, which is respiration, does not take place on the surface. The carbon cycle on Venus would be uni-directional, and not cycled as on Earth.

3) The net result of this process is that the CO_2 concentration would decrease while the oxygen concentration would increase while the water vapor would remain constant being recycled again and again.

4) With a decrease in the CO_2 concentration, the "greenhouse effect" will be lessened, and as such the temperatures will decrease and become more tolerable for man.

5) After time has passed (how much nobody is sure of), the temperature, pressure, and composition parameters of the Venus environment at the surface will be suitable for man to live and work there. The pressure is reduced of course in that the average molecular weight of the gases in the atmosphere of Venus will be decreasing. The lower the average molecular weight for a given gravitational field the faster the atmosphere "leaks" to space (and to make the Venus atmospheric pressure earth-like, there had better be plenty of "leakage").

6) With the temperature and pressure lowering, what water there is on Venus would be able to condense, fall as rain, and remain on the surface, thus allowing the introduction of ground plants into the environment, which would further reduce temperature and pressure until such time as earth-like conditions are achieved as close to as possible. At that point, the recycling of carbon dioxide can be allowed by introducing organisms that respire (man himself would qualify by eating the plant material) and returning carbon dioxide to the atmosphere. However, most of the fixed carbon in the dead plant life/algae would have to be taken out of circulation permanently and not be allowed to chemically form with free oxygen to form the vast concentration of carbon dioxide that today distinguishes the Venus atmosphere.

That is just one example of Applied ExoBiology. Who knows what tomorrow's findings might suggest to the world. A Martian plant perhaps with a chemical which can cure human cancers. The secret of the Jupiter jelly-fish which when farmed can feed the masses on the Earth. Or perhaps not to be forgotten, that early organism which will transform the face of the entire solar system for better or worse - MAN!

REPORTED SIGHTINGS AROUND SYDNEY, N.S.W.

- Jill Abood, a nurse from Dundas, on 1.8.71 at 10.18 p.m. observed a disc-shaped object with lighted windows, which was steady and pulsating. It moved off, then took a right hand turn and was lost in the distance.

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- Gregory Curry, a student from Emu Plains, on 12.8.71 at 10.35 p.m. observed a star-like object which changed to dull red, then to flashing or pulsating red light. He says the object had the appearance of studying the ground, slowing down, then speeding up as if searching for something.

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- Ann Gehrhardt, on 14.8.71 at 7 p.m. was travelling by car with her husband along Landsdowne Road, Orchard Hills, near Penrith, when they saw a gleaming light which attracted their attention. It was football size, bright orange, pulsating and moving downwards, it disappeared behind trees.

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- Mr. L. McNamara, who lives at Lindfield, on 27.6.71 at 1.30 a.m. was locking up his home when three bright lights attracted his attention. Each was a ball of light, pulsating and brighter than the moon. He watched them hovering for about two minutes, then they disappeared gradually, much like a TV tube being turned off.

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- Miss Flynn, who lives at Randwick, reported that on 20.9.71 at 7 p.m. she was sitting in a car park at Clovelly Beach. She noticed a light out to sea, which was fairly bright, and remained stationary for about 5 minutes, then it became dimmer and moved slowly southwards. She and her friend watched it continue down the coast until it reached a point somewhere around Maroubra when once again it became very bright and then after about 1 minute seemed to disappear into a group of houses. They then drove to where they thought it had gone but there was no sign of it. Miss Flynn remarks that she was somewhat sceptical of UFO's before this. (We hope you have become a member by now. — Ed.)

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- Report from Mr. J. Kunst of the *Daily Telegraph* of sightings by five copy boys of his paper. On Sunday October 10th, 1971, at 8.30 p.m., these boys were camped at Era Beach. They saw what appeared to be two satellites rising in the north-west and travelling south-east. They debated that they could not be satellites as there was no constant reflection of light. They were flashing in unison and one was much brighter than the other, and they were travelling across the sky at what appeared to be great speed. When they were directly overhead the object emitting less light accelerated in an arc from below the brighter one and stopped above it. It then appeared to travel straight out into space and disappear. Then the bright light accelerated and continued its course till it vanished behind the horizon. Later a light appeared again in the west, went straight up, made a "U" shaped arc and travelled straight behind the western horizon.

SYMPOSIUM ON UFO'S HELD OCTOBER 30th, 1971, IN ADELAIDE

Organised by Australian and New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science, South Australia Division, Inc.

Dr. R.J. Best, Chairman of ANZAAS, introduced the speakers, who included:

- Dr. B. Horton, B.Sc., Qld.
- Mr. C. Norris, P.R.O. for A.F.S.R.S.
- Dr. M.J. Dugin, Ph.D.
- Mr. L.R. Mitchell, B.Sc., A.A.I.P.
- Dr. P. Delin, Ph.D.
- Dr. L. Mander, Ph.D.
- Dr. D.G. McCoy, Ph.D.

These all gave interesting papers in their various spheres — touching on "Sightings," "the Psychological Aspects of Belief and Disbelief," "Meteorological Phenomena," "Extraterrestrial Hypotheses," "Space-Time of Extraterrestrial Cultural Contacts".

The final paper on "How to solve the UFO problem" was given by our Society's Dr. Herbison-Evans, Ph.D.

He evidently stressed the point that "information costs money."

The meeting was followed by question time and with a vote of thanks to Dr. Bryan Horton and all who helped to make it a success.

What a wonderful experience to have heard these eminent men speaking. Lucky for those who were able to attend.

(Compliments to Editor, *Australian Flying Saucer Research Society Magazine*, Adelaide, December 1971 issue.)

NOTES

A few copies of the excellent Canadian UFO book *Science, the Public and the UFO* by Arthur Bray are available — price: \$3.50 plus postage.

These and some other overseas publications can be had from the Secretary.

We are not the First by Andrew Tomas is on sale in Adyar Hall. Price: \$6.05.

Our Library is now housed at 2 Iredale Street, Newtown, N.S.W., 2042.

UFO Badges \$1.00. UFO Kits 90c. Spectrum Glasses \$1.25.

Can be had from the Secretary at the Public Meetings, or if by post, add postage.